Innovations in American Government
2001 Semifinalist Application

THE IDAHO DAIRY POLLUTION PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Application Number 864

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Submitted to:

INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
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1. Describe your innovation; include the specific problem it addresses, and how it has changed previous practice. **maximum 1 page**

The Idaho Dairy Pollution Prevention Initiative (the Dairy Initiative) is an innovation with very unique features. An unusual public-private partnership was formed to resolve major environmental problems that were not being adequately addressed by the federal and state environmental agencies that have the traditional authority and responsibility. The partnership is an alliance between two federal and two state agencies, an industry group, and a state university, all committed to eliminating dairy waste discharges to surface and ground waters within the State of Idaho.

In 1995, it was determined that 280 Idaho dairies (about 25% of the total number) were discharging untreated animal and dairy process wastes to roadside ditches, streams, and ground water. Prior to the implementation of the Dairy Initiative, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) filled their traditional roles as environmental regulators. However, due to regulatory and resource limitations, these agencies were not aware of the magnitude and degree of the pollution problems because they were unable to inspect and regulate all dairies. As the regulator of the dairy industry's milk commodities, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) administered a comprehensive inspection program focusing on milk sanitation for all dairies, but did not address the waste problem.

The Dairy Initiative partners put in place a formal agreement, entitled the Idaho Dairy Pollution Prevention - Memorandum of Understanding (the Dairy MOU), that capitalized on the frequent presence of ISDA inspectors and provided for their expanded role to ensure that all dairies could contain and properly handle their wastes. ISDA inspectors were given training and engineering support and also given the authority for milk license revocation and suspension as an enforcement tool. Each dairy and its waste storage and handling system would now be inspected for compliance at least annually (averaged 2.5 times per year in 2000). This knowledge combined with the threat of instantaneous loss of income has provided dairies with a significantly stronger compliance incentive than existed previously. Although the earlier EPA penalties were significant, their deterrence was diminished by recognition that fewer than 5% of the dairies would be inspected in any one-year. Under the new ISDA rules, dairies found to be in non-compliance cannot sell milk until they agree to implement a plan for corrective action. Such milk is still collected and processed, but the proceeds go to the appropriate county general fund rather than to the dairy. Approximately $150,000 from such milk proceeds has been diverted since 1995.

The Dairy MOU is unique in that it required the agencies to transcend their traditional and territorial roles in favor of greater environmental protection, public service and intergovernmental efficiency. Also unique is the willingness of an industry association to be a partner in this effort. The Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA) recognized that the growing public outcry about dairy pollution was beginning to threaten their reputation as an industry. This

industry backing was critical to the passage of the supporting Idaho Legislation and subsequent state rules implementing the Dairy Initiative.

2. What is the single most important **achievement** of your program or policy initiative to date? **maximum 1 page**

The single most important achievement is the significant public health and environmental improvement that has been accomplished under the Idaho Dairy Initiative. Before the Dairy Initiative, efforts by EPA and IDEQ to control dairy waste problems were somewhat misdirected and thus marginally effective. EPA regulations generally restrict coverage to only those dairies over 200 cows. It was suspected, and later confirmed, that the majority (approximately 70%) of the 280 dairies that were discovered discharging (many on a daily basis) fell beneath this 200-cow cutoff. Unless a complaint was filed, it is quite possible these smaller discharging dairies would have gone undetected by EPA and IDEQ.

Dairy waste discharges are typically high in levels of Escherichia coli (E. coli), salmonella and cryptosporidium. When ingested, illnesses caused by these microorganisms can result in gastroenteritis, fever, kidney failure, and death. In addition, the wastes contain very high concentrations of organics, ammonia, and nutrients. Some of the water bodies that had been receiving dairy waste discharges were also used for human contact sports and as sources of drinking water. No known outbreaks of disease can be attributed directly to discharges from Idaho dairies, however; fish kills have been recorded on several occasions.

Under the new ISDA rules implemented since the Dairy Initiative, all dairies are now inspected and regulated, not just those with more than 200 cows. Since the program's inception, ISDA has conducted over 14,000 inspections of dairy farms. During this same period, EPA and IDEQ would have inspected less than 400 dairies and normally just those with more than 200 cows. At this rate, it would have taken EPA and IDEQ over 15 years to inspect all dairies. All dairies now understand that they will be inspected frequently. This level of certainty has caused dairies with marginal facilities to be much more proactive in installing and managing proper waste handling facilities.

The new ISDA rules also require all dairies to construct waste containment ponds that have greater capacity and are less prone to leakage. These restrictions are more protective of surface and ground water than the former IDEQ and EPA requirements. In addition, the new ISDA rules have recently been modified to require land spreading of dairy wastes only in accordance with an approved Nutrient Management Plan (based on the Nutrient Standard developed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service-NRCS). These nutrient plans are required on all dairies by July 2001 and will ensure that the wastes will be balanced against the crop uptake and not be lost to surface or ground water. The new program has directly resulted in over 10 million dollars worth of construction for more than 500 dairy waste containment ponds and handling facilities since 1996. Occurring over just a few years, this significant increase in environmental protection

would not have been possible without the innovative partnerships formed as a result of the Dairy Initiative.

3. What are the three most important **measures** you use to evaluate your program's success? In qualitative or quantitative terms for each measure, please provide the **outcomes** of the last full year of program operation and, if possible, at least one prior year. **maximum 1 page**

The number of inspections conducted is a direct measure of program success. Each inspection presents a unique opportunity for the inspector to observe and take on-the-spot corrective actions:

- In 1998 and 1999, ISDA made about 2,600 inspections each year, this represents about 2500 additional opportunities to observe compliance than would have existed prior to the Dairy Initiative (ISDA 2000 Annual Report),
- Each dairy is now being inspected on an average of 2.5 times per year. Many of these repeat inspections are follow-ups to ensure that proper and timely corrective actions are being followed,
- Since 1995, over 14,000 inspections have been conducted on approximately 1,000 dairies. This compares to less than 400 that would have been conducted prior to the Dairy Initiative during this same period.

Another measure of success is the improvement in compliance. This includes virtual elimination of direct discharges to the environment:

- Of the 280 discharging dairies, it is estimated that there were 200 dairies that may never have been detected by EPA or IDEQ. Under the Dairy Initiative, each of these dairies have developed and implemented improvements to contain their wastes,
- In 1996, 50% of the inspected dairies had non-discharging type violations. This has been reduced to less 4% (ISDA 2000 Annual Report),
- In 1996, 25% of the dairies had some type of discharge violation. This has dropped to less than 0.5% of the dairies (ISDA 2000 Annual Report).

The number of dairy waste handling facilities that were put in place since 1996 represents a strong measure of program success. Each of these facilities was required to meet the stringent design and construction standards adopted through collaborative efforts between the ISDA and NRCS engineers. A total of 500 facilities were constructed between 1996 and 1998 at an estimated total construction cost of $10 million. This breaks down as follows:

- *255 dairies constructed waste handling improvements totaling $5.1 million*. These improvements resulted from the technical and financial assistance from NRCS, totaling $3.2 million,

- *245 additional dairies constructed waste handling improvements totaling approximately $4.9 million*. These improvements were from mostly private sources, but they received technical assistance and design approval from the ISDA engineers.

4. Please describe the **target population** served by your program or policy initiative. How does the program or policy initiative **identify** and **select** its clients or consumers? How many **clients** does your program or policy initiative currently serve? What percentage of the **potential clientele** does this represent? **maximum 1 page**

The target population served by this program can be considered to be the citizens in the State of Idaho at a population of approximately 1.3 million persons. These people benefit directly from improved environmental quality and reduced risks to public health. In addition, those citizens in bordering states that live in watersheds that extend beyond Idaho state boundaries (Bear River and Snake River) will also benefit.

All Idaho dairies are required to obtain a license in order to sell milk for human consumption. This client base and the requirements for operating a dairy within the State of Idaho are established by State statute (Title 37, Chapter 4 Idaho Code) and further defined by State Rules (IDAPA 02.04.14 Rules of the Department of Agriculture Governing Dairy Waste).

The number of licensed Idaho dairies has decreased from over 1,950 dairies in 1991, to 856 in April 2001. During this same period, the total number of dairy cows has more than doubled (from 175,000 to 325,000). There has been an influx of new and much larger dairies in the past several years, with many of the dairies coming from other states because of Idaho's cheaper land and lower feed prices. The net effect is that the industry has grown significantly while the number of small family run dairies is declining. Despite concerns that the more stringent standards and rules have influenced the decline of small dairies, ISDA found the rate of decline to be about the same as before the Dairy Initiative. This trend away from small dairies is apparently nation-wide, and is prompted by many factors that may include environmental issues, high feed costs, low milk prices, economics of scale, and lack of interest by families to continue the tradition.

An important aspect of current population dynamics is the relative distribution of dairies within the State in relation to the human population. This information illustrates the challenge which confronted the Dairy Initiative partners and which bears on their continued success. As of April 2000, there were nine Idaho counties with total dairy herd counts each exceeding 10,000 cows. These nine counties contain 284,000 cows or 87% of the Idaho dairy herd population and 44% of the Idaho human population. Two of these counties, Ada and Canyon, experienced a 46% growth in human population since 1990, while the total dairy herd population doubled in size. These growth patterns are contributing to the tension that has recently developed between the dairy industry and local growth interests (see response to question 5).

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5. What would you characterize as the program's most significant remaining **shortcoming**? **maximum 1 page**

The major shortcoming of the Dairy Initiative was that it did not initially address issues that have emerged from the growing trend of newer and larger dairy herds being co-located in areas experiencing strong urban growth pressures. Human population growth has been pronounced on the city fringes, where people can acquire large acreage home sites at lower cost. Unfortunately, some of this growth is occurring near existing dairies, and in some cases in the same areas as new dairy construction. One problem arising from this trend is that these new suburban/rural subdivision populations are often uninformed about dairies and their waste control practices and vociferously object to their odor. The public is skeptical that dairies with thousands of cows can be managed as well as, or better than, dairies with smaller herds.

To help remedy this rural-urban conflict, the Dairy Initiative's partners are providing support for selecting appropriate sites for dairies and other Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). The Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) took the lead in establishing an Inter-Agency Task Force which included all of the Dairy Initiative partners and others. From this effort emerged an Inter-Agency CAFO Site Advisory Team which is made available to counties on a voluntary basis. This Team will support those counties that don't have the technical staff and knowledge to deal with properly locating a CAFO to minimize impacts to the environment.

To address the significant odor concerns, the 2001 Legislature passed the Agriculture Odor Management Act that provides a regulatory basis for dealing with odors and instructs the ISDA to establish rules dealing with developing and monitoring odor management plans. The rules will be backed by civil penalties for non-compliance.

These public concerns will take ongoing public education to inform new populations and the general public about the environmental protection and improvements made since the Dairy MOU was signed. Local planning and zoning entities need to know the potential conflicts that may arise in approving subdivisions for locating next door to a dairy. To improve the image of dairies, it will take continued scrutiny of all dairies to ensure that nutrient management plans, and now odor management plans, are implemented in a manner that will not only protect surface and ground water quality but also not be offensive to neighbors. In dealing with these and other issues that will undoubtedly surface, it is expected that the Dairy Initiative partnership will continue to be a catalyst for finding acceptable solutions.

The Dairy Initiative partners, perhaps, should have anticipated the emergence of these concerns as symptoms of the increasing tensions between rural and urban interests. However, the partnerships and the associated trust forged as a result of the Dairy Initiative can now provide a strong foundation for addressing these newer issues. In fact, the current Dairy MOU is now up for renewal and modifications are being considered that will provide additional leverage to address these concerns.

6. When and how was the program or policy initiative originally **conceived** in your jurisdiction? What individuals or groups are considered the primary **initiators** of your program? Please substantiate the claim that one or more government institutions played a formative role in the program's development. **maximum 1 page**

Prior to the Dairy Initiative, the Idaho dairy industry was regulated by multiple government agencies in a fragmented and uncoordinated manner. EPA, IDEQ and ISDA each conducted separate environmental and public health inspections and compliance programs. This multi-agency contact was frustrating and confusing to the dairy operators. It was also a very inefficient process that was not effectively addressing those dairies that had routine waste discharges (many on a daily basis).

In January 1995, a meeting was held in Idaho's Magic Valley, the heartland of Idaho's dairy expansion. The meeting included dairy operators, all of the partners to the Dairy Initiative, plus county officials and other state and federal agencies. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible solutions to dairy waste issues. It was acknowledged that a pollution problem existed and the public was upset. Cleaning up the problem was clearly necessary and EPA and IDEQ said that they did not have the resources or authority to inspect and regulate all dairies. After many expressions of frustration it was asked, "Why can't ISDA do the inspections for all the agencies?" For many people in EPA and IDEQ the concept was bureaucratic heresy. However, a group was formed to study the technical, legal, fiscal and political implications of the concept.

After almost a year of intense negotiation of details and roles, the Idaho Dairy MOU was completed and signed. ISDA was assigned the lead role of interacting directly with the dairy industry to address the concerns of IDEQ and EPA. A set of guidelines and criteria were jointly conceived that incorporated the objectives and requirements of all three agencies. EPA and IDEQ accepted the role of training ISDA inspectors and of providing support to ISDA in circumstances of major environmental or public health harm. The Idaho Dairy Association (IDA) accepted the responsibility of contacting and informing the industry, promoting the program and persuading members of their organization of the values of environmental stewardship along with production capacity. To establish this innovative program's credibility and to build public confidence, all parties agreed to review the program annually in a public forum and make the results available to interested parties.

Though not signatory parties to the Idaho Dairy MOU, the NRCS and the University of Idaho Extension Service are considered partners, in that they played key roles in developing and implementing the Idaho Dairy Initiative (see response to question 9). The Idaho Dairy Initiative is truly a collaborative program for which no one party or agency can claim full ownership. If any one of the four Dairy MOU signatory parties (IDEQ, ISDA, EPA, IDA) had pulled out of the process, the Dairy Initiative would likely have failed. The other partners and parties (legislators, educators, government agencies, environmental groups and farm organizations) played meaningful but lesser roles.

7. Please identify the key **milestones** in program or policy development and implementation and when they occurred (e.g., pilot program authorization enacted by state legislature in June 1994; pilot program accepted first clients, September 1994; expanded program approved by legislature in July 1995). How has the implementation strategy of your program or policy initiative **evolved** over time? **maximum 1 page**

Although it was not originally envisioned, the Dairy Initiative has evolved into three distinct phases. First and foremost was the priority to "put a cork" in all discharging dairy waste facilities and those that have the potential to discharge. This required an enormous amount of technical and financial assistance. Once the facilities were in place to contain the wastes, then the priority shifted to proper land application capitalizing on the full potential of manure as a soil amendment and crop nutrient source. Finally, and most recently, the Dairy Initiative partners are turning their attention to assisting counties with evaluating potential dairy sites and odor management issues. Significant milestones achieved in each phase are described below:

Phase 1: Program development and initial focus on waste containment:

- EPA and IDEQ wholly responsible for dairy waste control – pre-1995,
- Negotiations began with agencies and industry associations to achieve better environmental protection by shifting responsibilities – early 1995,
- The Dairy MOU was signed establishing ISDA as lead agency to implement a more environmentally effective program – October 1995,
- State legislation and rules developed providing ISDA with authority to require full containment of dairy wastes – early 1996,
- State Technical Team recommends to NRCS that funding dairy waste improvements should be the agency's highest priority for funding – 1996,
- NRCS provides over $3.2 million for financial assistance – 1996—1998,
- Facilities and systems in place to achieve full containment of dairy waste – 1997.

Phase 2: Program expands to include nutrient management for land application:

- Recognition by the Dairy Initiative partners that proper nutrient management is the key to responsible land application of dairy waste – 1997,
- NRCS develops Nutrient Management Standard for Idaho – 1998 – 1999,
- ISDA partners with NRCS, IDEQ, and U of I Extension Service to incorporate NRCS Nutrient Management Standards into Dairy Nutrient Management Planning requirements – 1998,
- Idaho OnePlan (a public-private collaboration to assist farmers in protecting the environment – www.oneplan.org) tasked with developing software to assist with nutrient management plans – 1999,
- State rules developed requiring nutrient management plans by July 2001 – 2000,
- Idaho OnePlan completes Nutrient Management Planning software – April 2001.

Phase 3: Program to address dairy site issues and odor:

- Legislation and rules to provide technical assistance to counties on proper siting concerns for concentrated animal feeding operations – 1999,
- Legislation passed that provides for odor management plans and authorizes ISDA to develop rules – early 2001.

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8. Please describe the most significant **obstacle(s)** encountered thus far by your program. How have they been dealt with? Which ones remain? **maximum ½ page**

One of the more significant obstacles encountered was the reluctance of EPA and IDEQ to step aside from their traditional roles and allow ISDA to take control of the dairy waste enforcement program. EPA's major concern was with using State authorities that had no roots in the Clean Water Act (CWA) to regulate dairies. IDEQ had territorial issues that required special handling by the Governor's Office. Coincidentally, the Idaho Conservation League expressed related concerns about turning the lead environmental role over to a state agricultural agency (referred to as the "fox guarding the hen house"). These concerns were addressed in the Dairy MOU by including provisions where EPA clearly retained its authority under the Clean Water Act, while allowing ISDA to perform inspections and take follow-up compliance actions on a day-to-day basis. In addition, the Dairy MOU required that all ISDA records and actions be subject to review and evaluation by EPA and IDEQ during the annual program review.

Another major obstacle was overcoming the complacent attitude of the dairy industry. After years of taking the "let's wait and see if I get caught" position, the new requirements prompted a new outlook by dairy operators. No longer would it be a matter of *whether* a dairy would be inspected, but now it became *when and how often*. This high degree of certainty never existed before. It was clear that all dairies were now on the same "level playing field" and this resulted in strong peer pressure dynamics. Those dairies that were on the leading edge and making early waste handling improvements were proud of their accomplishments and they were outspoken in their disfavor of those recalcitrant "bad actors." Lewis Eilers, Executive Director of IDA, offers that *"dairy operators are proud that they have taken control of the dairy waste problem. They believe they have the best dairy pollution program in the country"*.

9. What other **individuals** or **organizations** have been the most significant in (a) program development and (b) on-going implementation and operation? What **roles** have they played? What individuals or organizations are the strongest **supporters** of the program or policy initiative and why? What individuals or organizations are the strongest **critics** of the program or policy initiative and why? What is the nature of their criticism? **maximum 1 page**

Key Partners: In addition to the 4 Dairy MOU signatory parties (EPA, ISDA, IDEQ, and IDA) the following organizations are considered to be key partners in the Dairy Initiative:

The **USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)** has been a critical link and has provided the necessary technical standards that define adequacy for dairy waste facility construction. NRCS has also played a leadership role in establishing a statewide Nutrient Standard that forms the basis for dairy Nutrient Management Plans now required for all Idaho dairies. With the backing of the Idaho State Technical Committee, NRCS designated the dairy waste needs to be the highest state priority for USDA funding and has provided technical assistance for design and has committed $3.2 million since 1996 for construction of approved dairy waste handling facilities.

The **University of Idaho Extension Service** has Dairy Specialists in areas that have significant numbers of dairies. These specialists provide critical technical assistance to both the dairy industry and the agencies. Since the inception of the Dairy Initiative, the University Extension has taken the lead in educational efforts for animal waste containment, nutrient management planning, and Nutrient Management Planner Certification training.

The **Idaho OnePlan** group has been working with ISDA and others and has developed a computer based Nutrient Management Planning Tool. The OnePlan is a unique collaboration of agencies, industries and associations (20 in all) dedicated to assisting Idaho farmers and ranchers in improved environmental protection through conservation (web site: www.oneplan.org).

Strongest Supporters: **Chuck Clarke**, former EPA Region 10 Administrator became a very outspoken supporter of the Dairy MOU, frequently publicly citing it as an example of how government and industry working together can develop innovative ways to do a better job protecting the environment. Former **Governor Batt** played a strong role in sorting out the territorial issues that arose when the ISDA was faced with roles that were normally played by its sister agency IDEQ.

Strongest Critics: **The Idaho Conservation League and Idaho Rivers United** are two environmental groups that are closely watching the implementation of the Dairy Initiative. They have expressed "fox guarding the hen house" concerns. (Marti Bridges, IRU, (208) 343 7481). The **Idaho State Farm Bureau** expressed concern that the industry was too progressive. Raising the environmental bar may make it more difficult for other agriculture groups (Greg Nelson, DVM, Director of Public Affairs, Idaho State Farm Bureau; (208) 342 2688).

10. If your innovation is an adaptation or replication of another innovation, please identify the program or policy initiative and jurisdiction originating the innovation. In what ways has your program or policy initiative adapted or improved on the original innovation? **maximum ½ page**

At the time that the Dairy Initiative started, there were no other similar dairy programs of which the Dairy MOU partners were aware. Although it did not serve as a model for this Initiative, the Idaho OnePlan project was in its infancy and many of the same partners in the Dairy Initiative were also key collaborators on the OnePlan. This helped in establishing the type of trust that is so important in a successful collaboration such as the Idaho Dairy Initiative.

11. If your program or policy initiative has been formally **evaluated** or **audited** by an **independent organization** or group, please provide the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person from whom the materials are available. Please summarize the principal findings of the independent evaluator(s) and/or auditor(s). **maximum 1 page**

The Dairy Initiative Program has been independently reviewed, although not by an independent agency. Clark Gaulding, EPA Region 10 senior analyst, conducted a thorough evaluation of the program during the latter half of 1998, finalizing his report in February of 1999. Mr. Gaulding was selected for the task because of his analyst qualifications and because he was totally independent of the initiation and implementation of the program. His evaluation covered the period from the signing of the Dairy MOU in October 1995 until June 1999. The evaluation included a review of each annual assessment by the four parties, interviews with all parties, file reviews and site visits. Findings include:

- Program requirements are well defined and understood by both agency personnel and dairy operators,
- The program has maintained good records,
- The program embodies both technical assistance and enforcement,
- There was an immediate and substantial increase in regulatory presence:
  - -Inspections increased from an average of 30-50/year to 2800/year,
  - -All licensed dairies, regardless of size, were inspected at least once,
  - -63 milk permit revocations were taken during the period,
- Compliance status of dairies significantly improved:
  - -Total number of dairies in non-compliance dropped 76%,
  - -Discharge violation notices dropped 83%,
- 500 new waste storage ponds and handling facilities were constructed,
- The program is viewed very successfully by the parties to the Dairy MOU and other interested organizations.

Analyst: Clark L. Gaulding, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington, (206) 553-1849 ; E-mail: gaulding.clark@epa.gov.

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In addition, the Idaho Dairy Program has been reviewed annually by the signatory parties of the Dairy MOU and reports are available from EPA and ISDA:

The ISDA contact is: Marv Patten, Dairy Bureau Chief, Idaho Department of Agriculture (ISDA), 2270 Old Penitentiary Road, Boise, Idaho 83701; Tel: (208) 332- 8550; Fax: (208) 334-4062; E-mail: mpatten@agri.state.id.us.

The EPA contact is: Bub Loiselle, Manager, NPDES Compliance Unit, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101, (206) 553-6901; E-mail: loiselle.bub@epa.gov.

12. To what extent do you believe your program or policy initiative is potentially **replicable** within other jurisdictions and why? To your knowledge, have any other jurisdictions or organizations established programs or implemented policies modeled specifically on your own? **maximum 1 page**

Nationally, dairies and other Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) have been targeted as significant sources of public health and environmental problems. In 1998, a Unified National Strategy for AFOs, prepared by EPA and NRCS, called for increased controls by the States and EPA to reduce the impacts resulting from the approximately 450,000 AFOs in the US. As a result, EPA is developing more comprehensive regulations and in anticipation, the states are seeking ways to deal with the issue. The Idaho Dairy Initiative is unique from the approaches in all of the other states, and because of its success, several states and industry groups are considering adoption of similar approaches.

In 1999, ISDA hosted a two-day review of the program by agriculture and environmental agencies, industry representatives, and legislators from North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. The attendees (approximately 50) were interested in understanding the Dairy Initiative for applicability to their States. The Dairy Initiative partners made presentations and ISDA guided many of the attendees on a field trip to several local dairies.

Additional meetings have been held between ISDA and industry and regulatory agencies from Florida, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Out of state presentations on the Dairy Initiative have been made by the ISDA Director and various ISDA staff members. Audiences include the National Milk Producers, the Washington Dairy Federation, Oregon Department of Agriculture officials, Michigan Dairy Producer Cooperatives, to name a few.

States that are considering the Idaho Initiative as a model include Oregon, Georgia, Ohio, Minnesota, and Florida. An article entitled, *Encores Elsewhere, Dairy Today, August 2000*, states: "If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, those who forged Idaho's Dairy Pollution Prevention Initiative can consider themselves sincerely flattered." The article goes on to describe the depth of discussions occurring in the states of Georgia and Minnesota regarding the Idaho Dairy Initiative model.

Closer to home, the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) has been watching the Dairy Initiative with interest since its inception. In the 2000 Legislative Session, ICA sponsored Legislation that eventually became the Idaho Beef Cattle Environmental Protection Act. The new law called for an agreement between three of the same parties in the Dairy MOU, the ISDA, IDEQ, and EPA, as well as the ICA. Such an agreement was negotiated over several months and is now in its early stages of implementation. There is every expectation for the same level of success with the beef industry.

13. What is the program's current operating **budget**? What are the program's funding sources (e.g., local, state, federal, private)? What percentage of annual income is derived from each? Please provide any other pertinent budget information. Federal, state, local, or tribal government institutions must currently provide at least 50 percent of ongoing funding. **maximum 1 page**

OPERATING BUDGET

	FY 2001		FY 2002	
SOURCE	**AMNT**	**%**	**AMNT**	**%**
ISDA	**$300K**	**93.1**	**$775**	**96.3**
IDEQ	**$10.4K**	**3.2**	**$10.4K**	**1.3**
EPA	**$5K**	**1.6**	**$4K**	**0.5**
IDA	**$7K**	**2.1**	**$15K**	**1.9**
TOTAL	**$322.4K**	**100**	**$804.4K**	**100**

Note: Staffing and support of the ISDA program is through a legislatively mandated tax levied on milk butter fat. A state appropriation process is required annually for ISDA's dairy program, so it is state funded, but the funds provided by the Idaho Legislature originate from a tax on the dairy industry itself.

14. Has the program or policy initiative received any **awards** or other honors? Yes_**X**_ No ____.
If yes, please list and describe the awards or honors and the sponsoring organizations.

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In August 1998, Chuck Fox, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, and Governor Phil Batt presented Vice President Al Gore's "Hammer Award" to each of the signatory parties, to the University of Idaho Extension Service and to nine individuals who were key contributors to the successful negotiation of the Idaho Dairy MOU.

In early 1999, EPA awarded Silver Medals to those EPA employees that contributed significantly to the development and the implementation of the Idaho Dairy MOU.

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15. Has the program received any press or other media coverage to date? Yes __**X**___ No _____.
If yes, please list the sources and briefly describe relevant coverage.

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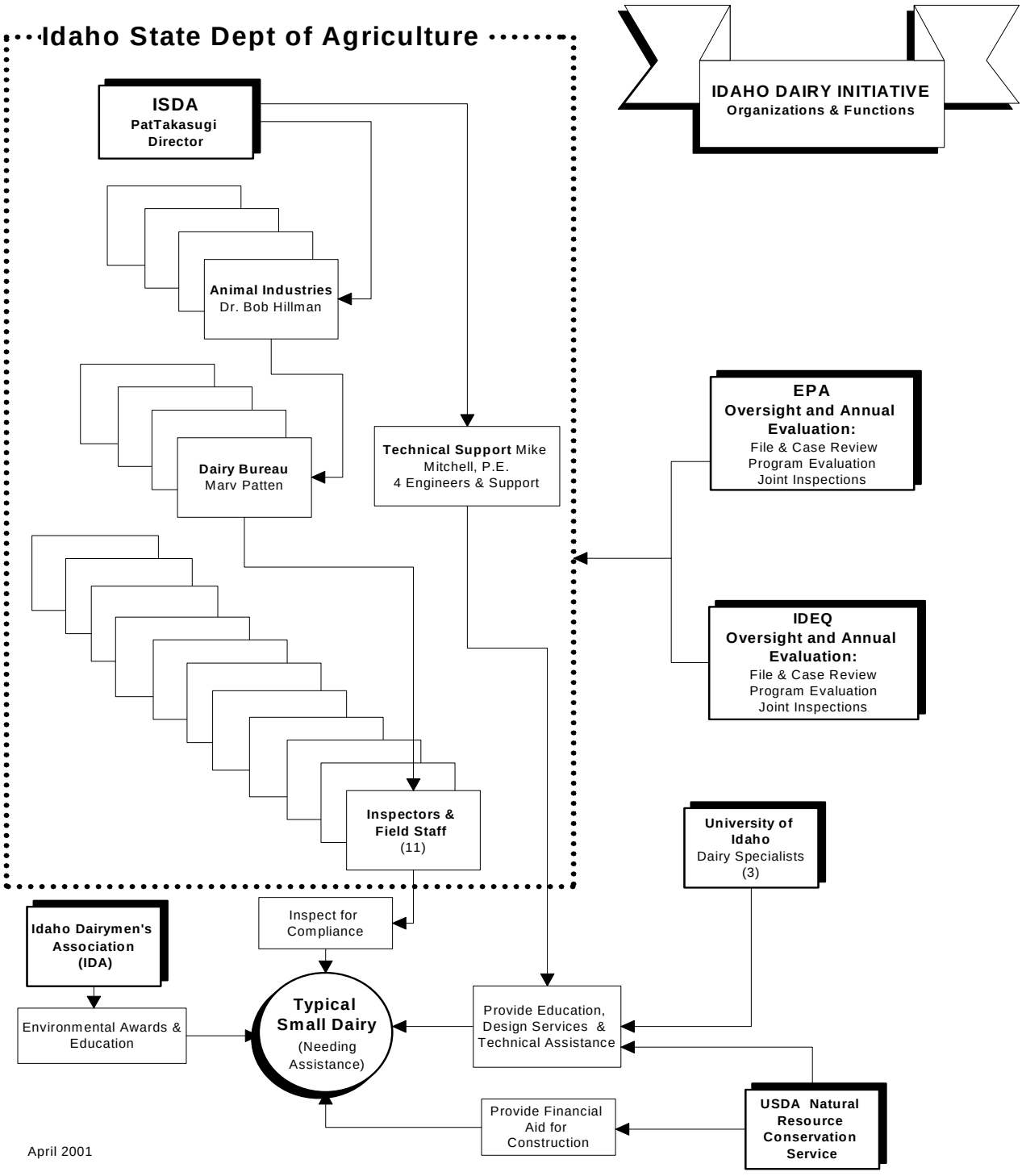
Over the years there have been many articles in the local newspapers regarding the Dairy Pollution Prevention Initiative. The following are a few typical samples:

- ***"Dairies Face Stiff Cleanup Requirements***", article describing the "new" requirements and the extent of impact and costs to dairy farmers. Dave Wilkins, Magic Valley Ag Weekly, Twin Falls, ID, November 2, 1996,
- ***"Idaho Dairymen Target Waste Management",*** news article describing a series of workshops helping the dairy industry understand the new nutrient management standards. Patricia McCoy, Capital Press, September 4, 1998,
- ***"Nutrient Management Plan Draws Fire",*** article describing the tough new nutrient management standards that face Idaho dairies and the deadline for completing them. Dave Wilkins, Capital Press, October 2, 1998,
- ***"Ag Committee OKs Dairy Waste Rules",*** outlines the difficulty the Legislature was having in passing the more stringent dairy nutrient rules. *"What proponents call the most stringent dairy-waste regulations in the country are one step closer to becoming permanent"*, Gregory Hahn, Times-News, January 26, 1999,
- ***"EPA Gives Idaho Dairy Inspection Program Another Glowing Review",*** news article outlining the findings of the EPA/IDEQ annual review of the Dairy Program. According to Bub Loiselle, EPA: *"It's one of the most progressive programs in the country."* Dave Wilkins, Capital Press, April 16, 1999.

On the National Front:

- ***"Idaho Effort Leads Nation in Reducing Dairy Farm Nutrients",*** this article describes the program from development through implementation and highlights the following in a sidebar*:" The Dairy MOU was designed to develop a proactive results-oriented program to protect surface and ground water while recognizing dairy producers' valuable role in Idaho's economy"*, State Environmental Monitor (Inside Washington Publishers) Vol 3 No.5 May 4, 1998,
- ***"A Better Way: An Idaho program in which state milk inspectors double as environmental inspectors has produced dramatic results",*** an article that describes the program and the interest it has generated in several states, Rick Mooney, Dairy Today (Publishers of the Farm Journal), August 2000.

16. Please attach an organization chart after your answer to question 16 to show the current number, responsibilities, and reporting relationships of key program employees or staff.



17. Describe your innovation in **no more than two sentences (3 lines)**.

Idaho dairy farmers and state and federal environmental and agricultural agencies formed an innovative partnership and developed a unique approach to resolve public health and environmental problems caused by dairy waste mismanagement.